

April 30, 2010

OBEY GLAD MORE CRANBERRIES AND POTATOES TO GO INTO SCHOOL LUNCHES

Move to Benefit Wisconsin Farmers

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Seventh District Congressman Dave Obey (D-WI) said that he is pleased that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) responded to his request by agreeing to purchase a wide variety of fresh, healthy foods, including cranberry products and potatoes, for federal food and nutrition assistance programs. Wisconsin's cranberry growers provide nearly 60 percent of the nation's supply of cranberries, and Wisconsin ranks third in the nation in potato production.

"It's a win-win situation. Federal food programs need high quality, healthy foods, and our cranberry and potato farmers have surpluses. I am very pleased that the USDA saw that this move makes good sense," Obey said.

The food products will be utilized by a number of federal food and nutrition programs, including the National School Breakfast and Lunch Programs.

On March 29, 2010, Congressman Obey was one of 16 Congressional leaders to send a letter to USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack highlighting the market conditions facing the cranberry industry and urging the USDA to increase their purchases of cranberries. The text of the letter is available [here](#) (pdf file, 63kb).

For additional information, please contact:

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